

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 200466
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 H-01 INR-05 PM-03 PA-01
SP-02 NSC-05 EUR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:LPFEIFLE:CFC
APPROVED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL
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ARA:SASHELTON

-----007962 090917Z /21

R 082221Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 200466

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, BH, UK, GT

SUBJECT: USE OF KEY WEST BY BRITISH

1. THE BRITISH HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO USE KEY WEST AS ONE OF THE SITES TO WHICH THEIR HARRIER AIRCRAFT WOULD BE EVACUATED IN CASE OF A HURRICANE THREAT TO BELIZE. THE BAHAMAS AND BERMUDA ARE THE OTHER LOCATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING THE PROS AND CONS OF RESPONDING AS WE DID TO THE BRITISH REQUEST TO USE DULLES FOR THEIR RESUPPLY FLIGHTS TO BELIZE, I.E. WE WILL APPROVE THE USE OF KEY WEST IF THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO OBJECTIONS. HOWEVER, BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER THE POSSIBLE USE OF KEY WEST AS AN EVACUATION SITE FOR THE

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HARRIERS WOULD BE PERCEIVED BY THE GOG AS A DEPARTURE FROM OUR TRADITIONAL NEUTRAL POSITION ON THE BELIZE DISPUTE.

2. FYI IF WE DO DECIDE TO RESPOND ON THE HARRIER REQUEST AS WE DID ON THE USE OF DULLES, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT BOTH ISSUES WOULD BE RAISED WITH THE GOG AT THE SAME TIME. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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